

BOROUGH OF BRECON

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for

1939.



Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in presenting to you my report for the year 1939. This is my first report to you as your Medical Officer of Health and it is to be regretted that war conditions make it impossible for this report to be as complete as I should have wished.

In accordance with the wishes of the Welsh Board of Health, as expressed in Circular 2067(Wales), this report must be considered to be an interim one and is confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year.

At the end of the war a report will be made dealing more fully with the period from the beginning of 1939 to the end of the last complete year.

Matters arising from or connected with the war.

Towards the end of the year the population of the Borough was greatly increased by the large number of soldiers and soldier's families entering the Borough. In September, in addition, approximately 250 mothers and small children were evacuated into the Borough from Liverpool. This increased population caused some difficulty in supplying the upper reaches of the town with a satisfactory supply of water.

Full Time Medical Officer of Health.

On May 1st, 1939, the first full time Medical Officer of Health to the Borough was appointed. Previous to this date the position was held by a part time officer and a full time officer should be an advantage to the town. On May 1st Dr. D. J. Jones was appointed in this capacity and he terminated his appointment on December 31st 1939.

Public Cleansing.

In March 1939 the Council bought a new Karrier Bantam freighter, a distinct improvement on the old open lorry.

Sanitary Conditions of Schools.

The trough closets in the Postern school have been replaced by proper separate water closets.

Housing Acts.

In 1939 six new houses were built by this council under the above Acts. This brings the total built in recent years up to 52.

Infectious Disease.

During the year a scheme for the erection of a new Isolation Hospital in the Borough was discussed. This hospital was to serve several other districts in the county of Brecon. The outbreak of war helped to postpone this scheme, but I sincerely hope that the matter will be reconsidered when hostilities cease as a new Isolation Hospital will fill a long felt want.

Borough of Brecon

Continued.

There was no severe outbreak of infectious disease in the Borough during the year.

According to the register of notifications received the total number of infectious diseases is shown in the following table.

Scarlet Fever.....	42 cases.
Erysipelas.....	1 case.
Puerperal Pyrexia..	2 cases.
Diphtheria.....	2 cases.
Measles.....	2 cases.

The majority of these cases were removed to the Brecon Isolation Hospital for treatment, a few were isolated at home and some others were sent to Merthyr Isolation Hospital and to the Cardiff Isolation Hospital.

The majority of the cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in the months of October and November.

As far as I am aware no exceptional administrative measures were taken or recommended by the Medical Officer of Health.

I am,
your obedient servant,

T.C.R.GEORGL.

District Medical officer of Health.
